

slops and milk; and later give richer food, such as cooked corn-meal with the bran. As soon as they will eat, let the little pigs have a few oats or soaked corn, or cooked corn-meal, in a separate pen from the sow. On warm days let the sow run out for an hour or two, and feed the little pigs just before she is let in again, and while they are hungry. Our readers will find some useful hints on this subject in "Harris on the Pig."

Hens, to lay well, must have plenty of exercise and liberal feeding. Let all their apartments be kept scrupulously clean. Where they have but a narrow range, they must have animal food, as a substitute for the worms and insects they find when running at large. Hens, with young chickens, should be confined in coops, and the chickens should be abundantly supplied with soft food and fresh water. Let the coops be moved on to fresh ground every few days. A common mistake is to have the coops too small. They should be at least three feet high and well ventilated. During a rain-storm, place the coops so that the back part, which is boarded up, will keep out the rain.

Barley is the first crop to be sown. Plow the land only when it is dry, and sow as fast as it is plowed. It should be harrowed and cultivated until the soil is mellow. Drill in $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bushels per acre. Roll the land soon after the barley comes up.

Clover Seed should be sown on the winter wheat. If the land is dry and hard, harrow the wheat before sowing the clover-seed. It will kill weeds and help the wheat, and the clover-seed is more likely to germinate. A smoothing harrow may be passed over the land after the seed is sown. If the land is mellow and in good condition, 4 quarts of clover-seed and 4 quarts of timothy seed per acre is enough. For permanent pasture add a pint of white clover. When nothing but clover is sown, we generally put in from 6 to 8 quarts per acre. Last year we lost our whole seeding from not sowing early enough.

Oats will do better on sod land than barley, but neither of them do as well on a tough sod as after corn or potatoes. Two bushels per acre is little enough seed. Land plowed last fall may be sown to oats without again plowing. Harrow them in thoroughly. If to be sowed down, make the land as smooth as possible after the oats are sown, and then sow the grass and clover-seed, and then roll.

Peas will do well on sod land, drilled in or covered with a Shares harrow. Sow as early as the land can be got ready—two bushels per acre. One or two bushels of plaster per acre will be beneficial.

Potatoes.—Plant early on dry land. Deep planting and harrowing the land,

just as the potatoes come up, saves much hoeing, but increases the labor of digging. Plaster sometimes has a marked effect on potatoes, and sometimes appears to do little good.

Land intended for Roots should be plowed and harrowed, cultivated, rolled, and plowed again, and worked until it is as mellow as a garden. Parsnips should be sown as soon as the land is in good order, and carrots a week or two later. Mangels and other beets need not be sown so early, and rutabags two or three weeks later. Make the land rich with well-rotted manure, and guano or superphosphate.

WORK IN THE HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENTS.

At the time we write these notes, early in March, the weather is as warm and mild as it usually is in April, and every thing bids fair for an early return of spring. But it is not safe to depend too much upon the weather at this season, as it is always very variable at the North. If, however, this weather should continue, much of the work in the horticultural departments that is usually done in April will have already been disposed of.

ORCHARD AND NURSERY.

The suggestions given last month will apply in many portions of the North for May. Trees for spring planting ought to be handled carefully and not allowed to become dry and shriveled; the nurseryman is often blamed for sending out poor trees, when the fault is with the planter who does not take care to preserve them properly until ready for setting. Never set out trees until the land is dry enough to work without leaving it in a lumpy condition, as the lumps will never pack close, and the air has a chance to circulate around the roots, often causing the death of the newly planted tree.

Pruning ought to have been done last month. Do not prune after the sap has commenced to circulate.

Scraping, however, can be done at any time, and the trees will be benefited by a thorough washing with whale-oil soap, or very strong soapsuds; this destroys many eggs which are found upon the bark.

Canker-worms.—This month is particularly favorable to the ascent of these pests of fruit-growers. Follow the directions given last month.

Grafting should be done this month. Care must be taken not to graft too early, as this is often more injurious than late grafting. Gions may be cut if the buds have not started, and preserved in sand or earth until ready to set.

Seeds for stocks ought to be put in early. The pits of peaches and other stone fruits, which have been buried during the winter, start very early; they

should be handled carefully, so as not to break off the sprouts, if any have pushed. The seeds must have a good mellow soil to grow in, with a liberal dressing of well-rotted manure and ashes.

Manure may be hauled out and plowed in whenever the ground is dry enough.

Root-Grafts.—Set out in rows far enough apart to work with a cultivator.

FRUIT GARDEN.

In many places the work suggested in the notes of last month has not been done yet; proceed as fast as possible with all planting, as the earlier plants are set, after the ground has become warm, the better growth will they make.

Straoberries.—Finish setting out new beds, and plow or spade up all old and unfruitful plants.

Gooseberries.—Set out the Houghton and American Seedling, and thin out the branches of old and crowded plants to admit light and air.

Currants.—When the old plants have been allowed to take care of themselves, and the clumps are filled with grass and weeds, the best way is to grub them up, and make new plantations; cuttings root very easily, and will bear a small crop the second year if properly cared for after planting.

Raspberries.—Uncover the tender varieties, and make new plantations early, before the buds have commenced to grow. Among the blackcaps, the Seneca and McCormick are good sorts.

Blackberries.—Plant early. The Kit-tatinny is one of the best varieties for general planting.

Dwarf Trees.—Where trees are needed, order early, and in setting use great care so as not to injure the roots or bark, as a slight injury often does a great deal of damage to the after-growth.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

This month is one of activity in this department, as the ground is warm enough for planting many of the hardier vegetables. Last month we enumerated some of the standard varieties of vegetables; these sorts should be ordered of the seedsmen, if not done already. The hot-beds and cold-frames will need particular care this month, as a neglect to give air during a bright warm day, may scorch the whole of the plants in a few hours, so that the labors of the past month will be entirely lost.

Window Boxes ought to have an exposure to the air every mild day to harden the plants, so that they will not be put back when transplanted.

Asparagus.—Give a liberal coating of manure if not done last month. Go over the bed with a spading-fork, and be careful not to break nor injure the buds or